<u>Claims</u>:

1. An animal health care system, comprising:

a weight input unit;

an impedance measurement unit;

5       an inter-leg distance input unit; and

a health assessment data calculation unit, wherein

said weight input unit enters weight value of an animal,

said impedance measurement unit includes impedance measurement electrodes each for contacting with a root of each leg of the animal and

10     measures impedance between front and rear legs of the animal,

said inter-leg distance input unit enters the distance between the roots of front and rear legs of the animal, and

said health assessment data calculation unit calculates health assessment data based on the weight value of the animal, the impedance

15     between front and rear legs of the animal, and the distance between the roots of front and rear legs of the animal.

2. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said impedance measurement electrode is formed from flexible electrically conductive material including either of electrically conductive resin and

20     electrically conductive rubber, or it comprises an electrically conductive member having a spherical portion or a spring-like portion formed thereon for contacting with the skin of the animal.

3. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said impedance measurement electrode has a plurality of projected portions

25     formed on the surface thereof for making sure to contact with the skin of the animal irrespective of presence of body hear.

4. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said impedance measurement electrode has a cushion material including either of

sponge and cloth, provided on the surface thereof for providing water-keeping capability.

5. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said impedance measurement electrode includes a constant pressure unit for producing constant pressure to make contact with the animal at the level of not stimulating the animal.

6. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said health assessment data calculation unit calculates the health assessment data by taking into account of at least one of morphologic measurement data including body length, body height, girth of trunk, girth of chest or girth of waist of the animal.

7. An animal health care system according to claim 1 in which said weight input unit includes a restriction unit by which at least one of the chest, abdomen, legs and roots of legs of the animal is placed and kept in position, and measures and enters the weight of the animal while restricting it in such manner that no legs of the animal are contact with those other than the restriction unit.

8. An animal health care system according to claim 7 in which said restriction unit includes contact portions each for contacting with the root of each leg of the animal, and automatically measures and enters the distance between the contact portions, thereby also acting as the inter-leg distance input unit.

9. An animal health care system according to claim 7 in which said restriction unit includes contact portions each for contacting with the root of each leg of the animal and each provided with the impedance measurement electrode, thereby also acting as the impedance measurement unit.

10. An animal health care system, comprising:

a weight input unit;

an estimated weight calculation unit; and

a health assessment data calculation unit, wherein

said weight input unit enters weight value of an animal,

said estimated weight calculation unit calculates an estimated weight
value based on at least girth of the trunk of the animal among the
morphologic measurement data including at least one of girth of the trunk,
body length and body height of the animal, and

said health assessment data calculation unit calculates health
assessment data based on the difference between the weight value and the
estimated weight value.

11. An animal health care system according to claim 10 in which said
weight input unit includes a restriction unit by which at least one of the chest,
abdomen, legs and roots of legs of the animal is placed and kept in position,
and measures and enters the weight of the animal while restricting it in such
manner that no legs of the animal are contact with those other than the
restriction unit.

12. An animal health care system according to claim 7 or 11 in which
said restriction unit has its width or height for receiving the animal, which
can be adjusted according to the size of the animal.

13. An animal health care system according to claim 7 or 11 in which
said restriction unit includes a flexible net or meshed sheet through which at
least four legs of the animal can pass, and frames for securing the net at any
condition from spread condition to folded condition.

14. An animal health care system according to claim 13 in which said
restriction unit further includes a lift unit on which said frame is secured,
and as the height of the lift unit is increased the spacing between two said
frames becomes narrower.

15. An animal health care system according to any one of claims 1 to 14

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in which said health assessment data calculated by the health assessment data calculation unit is body water mass of the animal.

16. An animal health care system according to any one of claims 1 to 14 in which said health assessment data calculated by the health assessment data calculation unit is fat free mass of the animal.

17. An animal health care system according to any one of claims 1 to 14 in which said health assessment data calculated by the health assessment data calculation unit is body fat mass of the animal.

18. An animal health care system according to any one of claims 1 to 14 in which said health assessment data calculation unit includes a "BCS" (Body Condition Score) estimation unit for estimating "BCS" based on the health assessment data calculated.

19. An animal health care system according to any one of claims 1 to 14 in which said health assessment data calculation unit includes an adiposity judgment unit for judging the degree of adiposity of the animal based on the health assessment data calculated.

20. An animal health care system, comprising:

a fat free data input unit;

a body temperature related data input unit;

a body temperature correction factor derivation unit; and

a metabolism calculation unit, wherein

said fat free data input unit enters fat free data of a dog,

said body temperature related data input unit enters body temperature related data of the dog,

said body temperature correction factor derivation unit derives body temperature correction factor based on said body temperature related data, and

said metabolism calculation unit calculates metabolism of the dog based on said fat free data and said body temperature correction factor.

21. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said fat free data is fat free mass or amount of muscle.

22. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said fat free data is derived from weight value and body fat data.

23. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said body temperature related data is a kind of the dog.

24. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said body temperature related data is body build of the dog.

25. An animal health care system according to claim 24 in which said body build of the dog is body mass index estimated from the weight value.

26. An animal health care system according to claim 24 in which said metabolism calculation unit includes a body hair data input unit for entering body hair data of the dog, and calculates the metabolism of the dog by taking into account of the body hair data entered thereby.

27. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said metabolism calculation unit includes an age input unit for entering the age of the dog, and calculates the metabolism of the dog by taking into account of the age.

28. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said metabolism calculation unit includes a thermal insulation effect factor derivation unit for deriving thermal insulation effect factor based on the body fat rate of the dog when it is entered thereto, and calculates the metabolism of the dog by taking into account of said thermal insulation effect factor.

29. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said metabolism calculation unit calculates at least one of the basal metabolism and the metabolism in rest condition.

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30. An animal health care system according to claim 20 in which said metabolism calculation unit includes an action data input unit for entering action data of the dog and a total energy consumption calculation unit for calculating total energy consumption of the dog based on the metabolism and the action data.

31. An animal health care system according to claim 30 in which said action data is action indices each indicating ordinary action of the dog with a plurality of steps.

32. An animal health care system according to claim 30 in which said action data is exercise data measured by an exercise monitoring device including at least one of a pedometer and an accelerator.

33. An animal health care system according to claim 30 in which said total energy consumption calculation unit includes an adiposity related data input unit for entering adiposity related data of the dog, a target weight reduction setting unit for setting target weight reduction, and a proper value calculation unit for calculating at least one of proper intake energy or proper consumption energy relative to said target weight reduction, based on said total energy consumption, said adiposity related data and said target weight reduction.

34. An animal health care system according to claim 33 in which said adiposity related data is weight value and body fat data of the dog.

35. An animal health care system according to claim 22 or 34 in which said body fat data is body fat mass or body fat rate calculated using at least one of impedance value of the dog, body condition score or morphologic measurement data.

36. An animal health care system according to claim 33 in which said target weight reduction is a general standard value for adiposity that is automatically set as the target.

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37. An animal health care system according to claim 33 in which said target weight reduction is set by a measurement person who manually enters the numerical value.

38. A dog health care system according to claim 30 in which said total energy consumption calculation unit includes an ambient temperature input unit for entering ambient temperature, and calculates total energy consumption by taking into account of the ambient temperature.

39. A dog health care system according to claim 38 in which said ambient temperature is set in advance for every season or every month so that it is automatically entered.